

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, and 11-13 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 2, 6, 10, and 14 being canceled, and Claims 1, 5, 8, and 13 being amended. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Silfvast (U.S. Patent No. 6,728,382). This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

The present invention is generally directed to a mixing console apparatus. A mixing console according to an embodiment of the present invention includes operators that are grouped in a manner that is easier for an operator to navigate. In particular, a console in accordance with the claimed invention includes operators that are grouped together by operation sections, where the operators are positioned in correspondence with the appropriate corresponding electrical components of the console. Furthermore, within the grouped operation sections, the operators are further divided into subgroups, wherein operators of each subgroup are correspondingly marked with a color marking. An illustration of this arrangement can be found in Fig. 1 of the present application, which shows two operation sections (A1 and A2), each of which the operators are divided into subgroups that are identified in part by color markings.

Silfvast is directed to functional panel for a mixer console. Silfvast discloses grouping select controls in accordance with their respective functions. However, Silfvast does not contain any disclosure or teaching of dividing operators, within a grouped section, into subgroups, where the subgroups of operators are identified by color markings. Rather, Col. 3, lines 58-60 of Silfvast (as cited by the Examiner) only discusses unspecified prior art as using color schemes to group

operators of different functions. There is no mention or suggestion of multi-tier grouping of operators into operation sections and subgroups of operators, wherein the subgroups of operators are distinguished from each other via color markings. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Silfvast does not anticipate, nor make obvious, any of the pending claims as amended.

The Examiner rejected Claims 3, 4-7, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Silfvast. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3, 4-7, 11, and 12 are dependent claims. Again, Silfvast does not contain any disclosure or suggestion of multi-tier grouping of operators into operation sections and subgroups of operators, wherein the subgroups of operators are distinguished from each other via color markings. Applicants submit that it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the present application, to conceive the invention as claimed in view of Silfvast. That is, Silfvast does not contain the necessary disclosure for one skilled in the art to fill in the gap between what was disclosed and what is presently claimed. Applicant respectfully submit that Claims 3, 4-7, 11, and 12 are not obvious in view of Silfvast.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection

with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no.

393032041300. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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